



Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 118 appropriates \$115.0 from the general fund to SAOA to expand outreach efforts to help low-income senior citizens statewide obtain free prescription drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers through the use of an automated system for processing applications.

Significant Issues

SAOA reports the appropriation contained in the bill would allow for the purchase of a license for up to 1000 people to use an Internet-based automated system to process applications to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies for free prescription drugs for qualifying low-income individuals.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$115.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

SAOA and HPC suggests the following changes to the bill:

- Change “senior citizens” to read “qualifying low-income individuals”;
- Add an emergency clause; and
- Change “free” to read “free or discounted prescription drugs”....

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Medicare website provides details on 65 different prescription drug programs via a downloadable database at <http://www.medicare.gov/Prescription/Home.asp>.

**RAE/njw**